Enclosure (ii) to the Memorandum.

THE PALACE, MYSORE.
12th July 1924.

MY DEAR LORD READING,

We have sent, through the Hon'ble the Resident, our representation in reply to the recent communication of the Government of India, which laid down certain general principles for a *pro tanto* remission of the subsidies or tributes payable by some of the Indian States to the British Government.

To this important matter Your Excellency was pleased to make a reference in your memorable speech at the Banquet in Mysore, and I am venturing to bring it personally to Your Excellency's notice again, as there are certain aspects of the question which can be more appropriately and frankly referred to in a personal letter than in an official communication. I trust that I am not trespassing unduly upon your time or patience.

In 1799, now almost a century and a quarter ago, when the first Treaty was made, the East India Company were in the position of having won the Mysore Country by right of conquest, and the imposition of a heavy subsidy, as one of the conditions of restoring the sovereignty to my grandfather was quite natural. But the intervening century and a quarter has brought many changes in the relationships between various national groupings in the Human Family, and has seen the development of the spirit and practice of Democracy by the British Government, which is now committed to the policy of gradually handing over the Administration of British India to an Indian Executive controlled by elected Councils.

The development of this policy, as partly embodied in the now operating Reform Scheme, does not, however, apply to the Indian States. These States and British India will have to work out their destiny on diverse lines—British India as a virtual Democracy, and the Indian States as Principalities with some form of constitutional government and federal organisation under the ægis of the British Power.

It would be highly anomalous to retain the subsidies under the altered conditions. It is one thing for a State like Mysore to pay tribute to a Paramount Power like the present Supreme Government, but an entirely different thing to be tributary to an Indian Administration which is to take the place, to a great extent, of the British Paramount Power. The only possible and dignified position for Indian States under the Reform Scheme is one of independent alliance, and from this point of view the subsidies, as tokens of political subordination, should be abolished, as in the coming Polity the peoples of the Indian States cannot be placed in a position of vassalage, to another Indian people, or congeries of peoples, without

implanting the seeds of perpetual unrest and friction ; nor can a hereditary Indian Ruler, the Constitutional Head of his people, command the necessary prestige, if he is to be placed in a position of marked inferiority to an Indian Government, composed mainly of persons drawn from the social classes of his own subjects.

To my mind, the whole system is an untenable one, alike from the point of view of the British Government which administers it, and of the State which is subject to the imposition. To have been subject to the levy for a century and a quarter is in itself a just ground for complaint, but for the Government of India to propose to perpetuate it in some other form would only make the matter worse. I am not aware if such a system of cash tributes exists anywhere else in the world. No State in India has been paying such a large sum of money for so many years to the British Government as Mysore has done, and she may reasonably ask if the practice is never to end, and if she is to go on paying for all time, without any hope of relief.

From what I have said, I feel sure that Your Excellency will concede that the matter of the subsidy is much more fundamental than a question of rupees, annas and pies, however important that may be. We should not merely consider whether the Government of India can afford to forego Rs. 35 lakhs of revenue, and whether Mysore has earned, by good behaviour, the concession which she asks for. It is a much wider question, involving political considerations connected with the Reform Scheme, which need to be dealt with by a statesman like Your Excellency, possessing wide and liberal views and a prophetic vision.

Your Excellency, I earnestly hope that you will extend the utmost sympathy and generosity that is in your power, and will help to remove what is not only an economic handicap to my State, but what I cannot help feeling is, in the new circumstances that are developing in India, an out-of-date humiliation. I can assure you of my deep and constant gratitude for any help that you may be able to render me in this important matter.

I do not ask for any reply to this letter. It is simply a personal appeal.

With the assurance of my regard and esteem for you,

I am, Your Excellency,
Yours very sincerely,
KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE
THE EARL OF READING, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., P.C.,
Viceroy and Governor-General of India,
New Delhi.